



## Don't Let Jaguars Become the Next Tigers

*“Experts worry that as tiger parts become harder to obtain, a new illicit trade in jaguar parts will take hold.”<sup>1</sup>*

Jaguars and tigers are both big cats that belong to the genus *Panthera* and share many similarities. They have distinct contemporary and historical ranges, but both are iconic species in their respective regions, jaguars in the Americas and tigers in Asia<sup>2</sup>. Both were listed under Appendix I of CITES in 1975 due to high demand for their parts and products. Unfortunately, the parallels between these species are an additional threat for the jaguar.

### Threats to tigers and jaguars:

- Habitat destruction
- Poaching
- Trafficking



The international demand for tiger parts and products has reduced tiger populations at alarming levels. As a result, traffickers have found in the jaguar the ideal substitute for tigers, consolidating an illegal jaguar trade that did not exist until a few years ago.

Uses of tiger specimens		Uses of jaguar specimens	
Medicinal derivatives	Claws	Organs	Paws
Bones	Whiskers	Skulls	Tails
Skins	Tiger glue (bouillon cubes)	Skins	Jaguar fat
Teeth	Tiger wine	Teeth	Meat

### More tigers are now in captivity than in the wild

- Approximately 12,574<sup>3</sup> tigers are currently kept in captivity, primarily in East and Southeast Asia.
- There are only an estimated 3,900 Tigers in the wild

### Jaguars are not yet widely bred in captivity

- However, specimens are found as part of private collections, and increasingly, in illegal sanctuaries linked to the illegal wildlife trade<sup>4</sup>.

### We must act now to protect the emblematic species of the Americas

While the current conservation status of tigers is much more dire than that of jaguars, both species are highly threatened and their trajectories could be very similar if we don't take action now.

- **Stop the poaching and trafficking of jaguars**
- **Prevent jaguars from being held and/or bred in captivity**

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<sup>1</sup> Nowell, K., CAT, and IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group. 2018. IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES DECISION 17.228: Review of Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. Cop17) on Conservation of and Trade in Tigers and other Appendix I Asian Big Cats. SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4.

<sup>2</sup> Id. at 117.

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 3.

<sup>4</sup> Arias M. 2021. CITES Study on the illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*). CITES Secretariat & The National Institute for Forest, Protected Areas, and Wildlife Conservation (ICF). 2021. Honduras' Response to CITES Notification 055/2020.